AUG 28 2023

Clerk of the Superior Court By: R. Cersosimo, Deputy

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

8 9 10 ILSE ROBLES et al., t t Plaintiff, Dept. 68 12 13 **CLASS ACTION** ANZAR ENTERPRISES, INC. et al., 14 Defendants. 15 16 Date: 17 10:30 a.m. Time: 18 Reservation No.: 294157 19 20 21 22

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Case No. 37-2021-00052808-CU-OE-CTL

Assigned to the Hon. Richard S. Whitney

**Order Granting Preliminary Approval** of Class Action Settlement

Motion for Prelim. App. Hearing August 25, 2023

Action Filed: December 17, 2021

[Notice of Motion and Motion, Memorandum, Declaration of Nicholas J. Ferraro and Proof of Service filed concurrently herewith]

Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement

This matter came on for hearing on August 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. in Department 68 of the above-captioned Court on Plaintiff's Motion Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Motion").

Having fully reviewed the Motion, the supporting Memorandum of Points and Authorities, Declaration of Nicholas J. Ferraro (and its exhibits), including the Class Action Settlement Agreement ("Settlement"), and the Class Notice attached as an exhibit to the Settlement ("Class Notice"), and in recognition of the Court's duties (to make a preliminary determination as to the reasonableness of any proposed class action settlement; to ensure proper notice is provided to all Class Members in accordance with due process requirements; and to set a Final Approval Hearing to consider the good faith, fairness, adequacy and reasonableness of the proposed Settlement), the Court makes the following determinations and orders:

- 1. The Court conditionally finds, for the purposes of approving this settlement only, the proposed Class meets the requirements for certification under § 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure: (a) the proposed Class is ascertainable and so numerous joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the proposed Class, and a well-defined community of interest among members of the proposed Class with respect to the subject matter of the class action; (c) the claims of the Class Representative are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed Class; (d) the Class Representative do and fairly and adequately will continue to protect the interests of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy in the context of settlement; and (f) counsel of record for the Plaintiff are qualified to serve as Class Counsel for the Class.
- 2. The Court finds, on a preliminary basis, the Settlement, incorporated by this reference in full, and made a part of this Order, appears to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which could ultimately be given final approval by this Court.
- 3. The Court further finds, on a preliminary basis: (a) the non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount is fair and reasonable to the Class when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to class certification, liability and damages issues, and potential appeals; (b) significant investigation, research, and informal discovery, have been conducted such that counsel

for the Parties are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions; (c) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks presented by further prosecution of the litigation; and (d) the proposed Settlement was reached through intensive, serious, and non-collusive negotiations facilitated by an experienced mediator.

- Accordingly, good cause appearing, the Motion for Order Granting Preliminary
  Approval of Class Action Settlement is GRANTED.
  - 5. Class Members are therefore defined pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement.
- 6. The Court further finds the proposed Class Notice fairly and adequately advises Class Members of (a) pendency of the Class Action Settlement; (b) conditional Class certification for settlement purposes only; (c) preliminary Court approval of the proposed Settlement; (d) the date, time and place of the Final Approval Hearing; (e) the terms of the proposed Settlement and the benefits available to Class Members under the Settlement; (f) their right to receive a proportionate share of the Net Settlement Amount without the need to return a claim form; (g) their right to request exclusion, and the procedures and deadline for doing so; (h) their right to object to the Settlement, and the procedure and deadline for doing so; and (i) their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing.
- 7. The Court further finds the proposed Class Notice provides the best practicable notice to the Class and clearly comports with all constitutional requirements, including those of due process.
- 8. The Court further finds that mailing of the Class Notice to the last known address of all Class Members with measures taken for verification of an address and skip tracing of bad addresses, as specifically described within the Settlement, constitutes an effective method of notifying Class Members of their rights with respect to the class action and the Settlement.
- 9. Accordingly, for good cause, the Court APPROVES the Class Notice for distribution to the Class pursuant to the notice procedures set forth in full in the Settlement.
  - 10. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that:
- a. Phoenix Settlement Administrators be appointed the Administrator of the Settlement, as more specifically set forth in the Settlement;
  - b. Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc. be appointed as Class Counsel;
  - c. Plaintiff Ilse Robles be appointed as Class Representative;

- d. Not later than fifteen (15) calendar days (or, if that date falls on a weekend or holiday, the next business day) after the date the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement, Defendant shall provide to the Administrator for each Class Member the following information in a Microsoft Office Excel (or similar) format: (1) first and last name; (2) last known mailing address; (3) social security number; (4) the total number of weeks during which the Class Member performed any actual work during the Class Period as a member of the Class and PAGA Period, as applicable, as a PAGA Member ("Class Data");
- e. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after its receipt of the Class Data, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the Class Notice, including the Request for Exclusion form attached thereto, to each member of the Class by first class, regular U.S. mail, using the most current mailing address information available, with measures taken for updating an address as provided by the terms of the Settlement.
- f. On or before sixty (60) calendar days from the date the Settlement Administrator first mails the Class Notice to Class Members (or, the next business day that is not a Sunday or holiday) (the "Response Deadline"), Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Class must submit a written request for exclusion pursuant to the Request for Exclusion form submitted with the Class Notice. Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely written Request for Exclusion on or before the Response Deadline shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any final judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court.
- g. Any Class Member who desires to object may appear in Court at the Final Approval Hearing to present oral objections or provide written objections pursuant to the terms of the Settlement;
- h. In addition to appearing at the Final Approval Hearing and objecting orally to the Settlement, on or before the Response Deadline, any Class Member who desires to object may send a written notice of objection in the manner set forth in the Class Notice, stating (a) the objecting person's full name, address, and telephone number; (b) the words "Notice of Objection" or similar language; (c) describe, in clear and concise terms, the legal and factual arguments supporting the

Date:

objection; (d) list identifying witness(es) the objector may call to testify at the Final Approval hearing; and/or (e) provide true and correct copies of any exhibit(s).

- i. On or before the Response Deadline, Class Members who wish to dispute the information upon which their individual settlement share will be calculated must postmark and return to the Administrator an explanation in writing describing why he or she believes the information is incorrect, along with any supporting information and/or documentation as described in the Class Notice. Class Members who received a re-mailed Class Notice shall have their Response Deadline extended fourteen calendar (14) days from the original Response Deadline.
- 11. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if for any reason the Court does not execute and file an Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement, or if the Effective Date, as defined in the Settlement, does not occur for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement and the proposed Settlement that is the subject of this Order, and all evidence and proceedings had in connection therewith, shall be restored without prejudice to the *status quo ante*, as more specifically set forth in the Settlement.
- 12. The Court reserves the right to continue the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to the Class. However, if written objections are submitted, Class Counsel is ordered to serve notice on any such objecting Class Member of the new date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.
- 13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Final Approval Hearing shall be held before the undersigned at 10:30 A.M. on February 16, 2024, in Department 68 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego located at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the proposed Settlement preliminarily approved in this Order, and to consider the application for a Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative, Settlement Administrator expenses to the third-party Settlement Administrator, and Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and litigation expenses incurred.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

8-28-23

Honorable Richard S. Whitney

Superior Court Judge